Cultivation of Tea

3297. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that tea cultivation has reached saturation point in the traditional states of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to take up extra tea cultivation in other states; and

(d) if so, the details of the plan worked out in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Ten cultivation has not reached saturation point. However, the rate of expansion is slow because of limited availability of suitable land within the traditional tea growing states.

(c) and (d) Government have been encouraging tea plantation in non-traditional areas such as Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Orissa, Sikkim, Garhwal and Kumaon hills of U.P., Idukki and Wynad districts of Kerala, Kodagu district of Karnataka, Kodaikanal and Anamalis in Tamil Nadu and N.C. hills in Assam. In all, an area of 71,545 ha has been identified as suitable for growing tea in these states.

Trade Relations with Poland

3298. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to expand trade relations with Poland.

(b) if so, the specific steps taken thereon; and

(c) what are the details of areas identified for the expansion of trade between the two countries ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The Government have been making all efforts to expand trade relations with Poland. These include periodic meetings of the Joint Business Council, intensification of participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, particularly specialised trade fairs, organisation of buyer-seller meets and promotion of warehousing facilities.

(c) Areas specifically identified for mutual cooperation include electronics, shipping, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, telecommunications and railways.

Threat to the Existence of 'Appu Ghar

3299. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the "Appu Ghar" being operated by a private agency in the premises of the Trade Fair Authority of India at Delhi is facing a threat to its existence due to high licence fees charged by the Trade Fair Authority of India; and

(b) if so, whether government are considering revision in the licence fees to help this children's Park ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Commerce is not aware of any such threat to the existence of 'Appu Ghar' in the premises of India Trade Promotion Organisation. In fact, licence fee is being levied by India Trade Promotion Organisation (erstwhile Trade Fair Authority of India) on the private firm running of Appu Ghar on the basis of terms and conditions agreed to in 1984 and the concerned firm has approached ITPO for a further extension for seven years.